

09/980423

JC10 Rec'd P67/P10 3 0 NOV 2001

Attorney Docket: 8074-3

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Clemente Spehr
INT'L. APPLN. NO: PCT/EP00/04827
INT'L. FILING DATE: December 14, 2000
FOR: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SUPPRESSING UNWANTED
PROGRAM PARTS FOR ENTERTAINMENT
ELECTRONICS DEVICES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application on the merits, kindly
amend the application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please replace the existing title of the application with the amended title as
follows:

--METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SUPPRESSING UNWANTED PROGRAM
PARTS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ELECTRONICS DEVICES--

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date November 30, 2001, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EL797415824US addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

Frank Chau

09/980423-03100

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 4, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, line 33, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, line 35, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

--The method and the apparatus according to the invention have the particular advantage that the viewers, without their assistance, are freed of the tiresome necessity of watching the advertising blocks and - if desired - impressions are not diverted by undesirable advertising commercials.--

Page 3, please delete lines 30-32.

Page 6, line 20, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, line 26, please delete entire line.

Page 7, line 3, please insert the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 11-23:

11. (New) A method for suppressing the recording and/or reproduction of undesirable program sections, in particular advertising, transmitted by a transmitter, for an apparatus pertaining to consumer electronics, having the following steps:

definition of the undesirable program sections, which can be identified by a coded identification signal which can be received from an online service provider, in particular an Internet service provider, by means of an input device;

identification of the start of an undesirable program section, in particular an advertising block, and provision of the identification signal by an identification device set up for communication with the apparatus appertaining to consumer electronics, said apparatus being in a first operating state;

transmission of a corresponding first signal to a control box which can be connected to the apparatus appertaining to consumer electronics;

processing of the first signal in the control box;

changeover of the apparatus into a second operating state by means of a measure effected by the control box in response to the first signal;

identification of the end of the undesirable program section, in particular the advertising block, by the identification device,

transmission of a corresponding second signal to the control box;

processing of the second signal in the control box;

changeover of the apparatus back into the first or a third operating state by means of a measure effected by the control box in response to the second signal;

insertion of a replacement program at least during the validity of the first signal on the apparatus appertaining to consumer electronics.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, which has the following steps:
transmission of information with regard to the consumer behavior of the user of
the apparatus via a network interface to the online service provider.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, which has the following steps:
evaluation of the information with regard to the consumer behavior of the user of
the apparatus at the online service provider; and
selection of the replacement program in accordance with the evaluation and
transmission of the replacement program to the apparatus by the online service
provider.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, which has the following steps:
buffering of the replacement program and/or of the current program, interrupted
by the reception of the first signal, in a buffer memory; and
temporally staggered reproduction of the buffered replacement program and/or
of the current program interrupted by the reception of the first signal.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, which has the following steps:
buffering of the replacement program and/or of the current program, interrupted
by the reception of the first signal, in a buffer memory; and
temporally staggered reproduction of the buffered replacement program and/or
of the current program interrupted by the reception of the first signal.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 13, which has the following steps:

buffering of the replacement program and/or of the current program, interrupted by the reception of the first signal, in a buffer memory; and

temporally staggered reproduction of the buffered replacement program and/or of the current program interrupted by the reception of the first signal.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the apparatus is a television and the information of the television signal is stored separately according to sound sequence and picture sequence and is evaluated in each case individually, preferably in parallel, according to different predetermined criteria for advertising block identification by the identification device.

18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein during a simultaneous recording of a transmission onto the medium of a recording device, wherein it contains the step of stopping the recording during the transmission time of an undesirable program section and resuming it after the end of said undesirable program section.

19. (New) A control box for suppressing the recording and/or reproduction of undesirable program sections, comprising:

an input device for defining undesirable program sections;

a receiving device for receiving the first and second signals made available by the identification device, preferably in the form of an external service provider, and for receiving the replacement program;

a signal processing unit for processing the received first and second signals;

an output device for controlling the apparatus appertaining to consumer

electronics;

a transmitting device for transmitting the information with regard to the consumer behavior, preferably information about the duration and/or the reception channel of program sections received most recently by the apparatus appertaining to consumer electronics; in which case the transmitting device can be coupled to the network interface in order to transfer the data.

20. (New) The control box as claimed in claim 19, wherein it can be connected to a buffer memory which is set up for buffer-storing information with regard to sections of the currently received transmission or information from the network interface and for outputting it again to the apparatus appertaining to consumer electronics.

21. (New) The control box as claimed in claim 19, wherein it has a further receiving device, with which it is set up for receiving a signal originating from a remote control of the apparatus appertaining to consumer electronics.

22. (New) The control box as claimed in claim 20, wherein it has a further receiving device, with which it is set up for receiving a signal originating from a remote control of the apparatus appertaining to consumer electronics.


23. (New) The control box as claimed in claim 22, wherein the processing device is set up for processing the signal of the remote control for the purpose of selection of the second operating state of the apparatus.

REMARKS

Before examination on the merits of the above application, please enter the present Preliminary Amendment. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE TITLE:

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SUPPRESSING UNWANTED [PROGRAMME]
PROGRAM PARTS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ELECTRONICS DEVICES

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 4, please insert the following:

[Prior art] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, line 33, please insert the following:

[Advantages of the invention] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, line 35, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

The method [according to the invention having the features of claim 1 in connection with] and the apparatus according to the invention [according to claim 7] have the particular advantage that the viewers, without their assistance, are freed of the tiresome necessity of watching the advertising blocks and - if desired - impressions are not diverted by undesirable advertising commercials.--

Page 3, please delete lines 30-32.

[The subclaims contain advantageous developments and improvements of the method specified in claim 1 and, respectively, of the control box specified in claim 7.]

Page 6, line 20, please insert the following:

[Drawings] **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Page 6, line 26, please delete entire line.

[In the figures:]

Page 7, line 3, please insert the following:

[Description of the exemplary embodiments]

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS